

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/940,189

Examiner

Nahar Qamrun

Applicant(s)

VAZQUEZ ET AL.

Art Unit

2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 9/19/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 38-74.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 9/19/2005.
2. Claims 38-74 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to disclose, in combination with other claimed limitations, wherein the block diagram specifies a second portion of the process, wherein the second portion of the process is distinct from the first portion of the process, wherein the block diagram is distinct from the plurality of steps, wherein the block diagram comprises the plurality of interconnected nodes, and wherein the plurality of interconnected nodes visually indicate operation of the second portion of the process; wherein the process specification and the block diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process as recited in independent claim 38; the cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to disclose, in combination with other claimed limitations, wherein the block diagram specifies a second portion of the process, wherein the block diagram comprises the plurality of interconnected nodes, and wherein the plurality of interconnected nodes visually indicate operation of the second portion of the process; wherein the plurality of operations is distinct from the block diagram; and wherein the plurality of operations and the block diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process as recited in independent claim 58; the cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to disclose, in combination with other claimed limitations, wherein the block diagram comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes which visually indicate the decision operation; wherein the decision operation is distinct from the operations to be performed on the object, and wherein the block

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diagram is distinct from the script; wherein the script and the diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process as recited in independent claim 62; the cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to disclose, in combination with other claimed limitations, wherein the block diagram comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes visually indicate operation of the second portion of the process; wherein the plurality of steps is distinct from the block diagram; wherein the plurality of steps and the block diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process as recited in independent claim 65; the cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to disclose, in combination with other claimed limitations, wherein the plurality of interconnected nodes visually indicate operation of the second portion of the process; wherein the second portion of the process is distinct from the first portion of the process, and wherein the process specification is distinct from the block diagram; and wherein the process specification and the block diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process as recited in independent claim 66; the cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to disclose, in combination with other claimed limitations, wherein the block diagram comprises the plurality or interconnected nodes, and wherein the plurality of interconnected nodes visually indicate operation of the second portion of the process; wherein the first portion of the process is distinct from the second portion of the process, and wherein the plurality of steps is distinct from the block diagram; and wherein the plurality of steps and the block diagram collectively specify the computer-implemented process as recited in independent claim 74.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahar Qamrun whose telephone number is (571) 272-3730. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahar Qamrun


WEI Y. ZHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER